

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the following pages of the specification:

Page 1:

following the title and before the first paragraph, beginning with numbered line 5, please insert the following heading:

-- Background of the Invention --

between the paragraphs beginning on lines 24 and 25, please insert the following heading:

-- Summary of the Invention --

between the paragraphs beginning on lines 31 and 33, please insert the following heading:

-- Detailed Description and Preferred Embodiments --

Page 3:

before the paragraph beginning on line 9, please add the following section heading:

-- Brief Description of the Drawing --

amend the paragraph beginning on line 9, as follows:

-- ~~Figure 4~~ The figure shows one of the embodiments of the rope according to the invention, being a 12-strand braided rope (10), which consists of 4-strand laid-up primary strands (12) with an S-twist. The primary strands consist of secondary strands (14) which have been laid up from rope yarns (16) in a Z-twist. Normally, half of the strands consist of an S-twist and the other half of a Z-twist. For additional clarity, a portion of a secondary strand (14) is shown in an expanded view and, similarly, a portion of a laid-up primary strand (12) formed from twisted secondary strands is also shown in an expanded view. --

amend the paragraph beginning on line 14, as follows:

--For the manufacture of such a rope, rope yarns (16) can be twined from a bundle of fibres with the help of a standard twining machine. A secondary strand (14) is then laid up from several rope yarns on a strand bench, with the direction of twist being opposite to the direction of twist in the rope yarn. Four of those strands are laid up to form the primary strand (12). Then 12 primary strands are braided to form the rope (10). This is done on a braiding machine with 12 reels which are filled with primary strands. An endless rope can be made now by, when one of the reels gets empty, connecting the tail end (121) of a first primary strand on the empty reel to the lead end (212) of a second primary strand (21) on a full reel and replacing the empty reel by the full reel. Eventually, at least every primary strand in rope (10) will be connected, e.g., by splicing, to a new primary strand. Connecting the two strand ends can be done by applying a splice (20) in accordance with a known method as described for instance in The Splicing Handbook, "Techniques for Modern and Traditional Ropes", by Barbara Merry with John Darwin, ISBN 0-87742-952-9.—